

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A machine-implemented method comprising:

generating a comparison of a current software installation, to a target computer, with a previous software installation, to the same target computer, in a series of two or more software installations during a software product development;

creating installation data for a resource, based at least in part on the comparison, the resource including attributes including a dynamic attribute and a static attribute, the dynamic attribute is an attribute that should have changed between the previous software installation and the current software installation, the static attribute is an attribute that should remain unchanged between the previous software installation and the current software installation;

identifying from the installation data the dynamic attribute that was not changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified dynamic attribute to facilitate verification of an installer for the software product development.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying from the installation data the static attribute that was changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified static attribute to facilitate verification of the installer for the software product development.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the previous software installation is performed about one day prior to the current software installation.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising tracking expectations for the resource in a primary installation baseline and a secondary installation baseline, and wherein presenting the potential problems comprises presenting a baseline-update interface by transmitting markup language data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising excluding a set of resources from the generated comparison for the software product development.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the expectations of resource changes, including the data, are stored in a relational database indexed by date, platform, language, and product configuration.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the attributes comprising modification date stamp information, file size information, security permissions information, and checksum information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource comprises a file and a system registry, and the installation data comprises deletion, addition, and modification of the resource.

10. (Previously Presented) A software product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable medium, the software product comprising instructions operable to cause one or more data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

generating a comparison of a current software installation, to a target computer, with a previous software installation, to the same target computer, in a series of two or more software installations during a software product development;

creating installation data for a resource, based at least in part on the comparison, the resource including attributes including a dynamic attribute and a static attribute, the dynamic attribute is an attribute that should have changed between the previous software installation and the current software installation, the static attribute is an attribute that should remain unchanged between the previous software installation and the current software installation;

identifying from the installation data the dynamic attribute that was not changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified dynamic attribute to facilitate verification of an installer for the software product development.

11. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving input specifying which of the identified dynamic attribute and static attribute should be static in their installation data for future software installations; and

designating a new expectation of stability for the specified attribute according to the received input.

12. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise

identifying from the installation data the static attribute that was changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified static attribute to facilitate verification of the installer for the software product development.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 12, wherein the operations further comprise tracking the expectations of resource changes in a primary installation baseline and a secondary installation baseline, and wherein presenting the potential problems comprises presenting a baseline-update interface by transmitting markup language data.

15. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 12, wherein the operations further comprise excluding a set of resources from the generated comparison for the software product.

16. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 12, wherein the expectations of resource changes are stored in a relational database indexed by date, platform, language, and product configuration.

17. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 10, wherein the attributes comprising modification date stamp information, file size information, security permissions information, and checksum information.

18. (Previously Presented) The software product of claim 12, wherein the resource comprises a file and a system registry, and the installation data comprises deletion, addition, and modification of the resource.

19. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a build controller;
an install controller comprising a database including a baseline recording expectations of a dynamic attribute and a static attribute for one or more resources associated

with a software installer, the dynamic attribute is an attribute that should have changed between a previous software installation and a current software installation, the static attribute is an attribute that should remain unchanged between the previous software installation and the current software installation; and

one or more install slave machines;

wherein the build controller automatically triggers the install controller to initiate installer tests as part of a software build process, and the install controller automatically dispatches installation to the one or more install slave machines and collects test results to be presented in a report comprising a baseline-update interface.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the one or more install slave machines comprise multiple computers.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the install controller communicates with the one or more install slave machines using Simple Object Access Protocol.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the baseline-update interface comprises a web-based user interface allowing baseline updates across SKU, language, operating system, and custom/non-custom installs, in combination or all at once.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the attributes comprising modification date stamp information, file size information, security permissions information, and checksum information.

24. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

means for generating a comparison of a current software installation, to a target computer, with a previous software installation, to the same target computer, in a series of two or more software installations during a software product development;

means for creating installation data for a resource, based at least in part on the comparison, the resource including attributes including a dynamic attribute and a static attribute, the dynamic attribute is an attribute that should have changed between the previous software installation and the current software installation, the static attribute is an attribute that should remain unchanged between the previous software installation and the current software installation;

means for identifying from the installation data the dynamic attribute that was not changed in the current software installation; and

means for presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified dynamic attribute to facilitate verification of the installer for the software product development.

25. (New) A system comprising:

a user interface device; and

one or more computers operable to interact with the user interface device and to perform operations comprising:

generating a comparison of a current software installation, to a target computer, with a previous software installation, to the same target computer, in a series of two or more software installations during a software product development;

creating installation data for a resource, based at least in part on the comparison, the resource including attributes including a dynamic attribute and a static attribute, the dynamic attribute is an attribute that should have changed between the previous software installation and the current software installation, the static attribute is an attribute that should remain unchanged between the previous software installation and the current software installation;

identifying from the installation data the dynamic attribute that was not changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified dynamic attribute to facilitate verification of an installer for the software product development.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the operations further comprise:

identifying from the installation data the static attribute that was changed in the current software installation; and

presenting potential problems with the current software installation based on the identified static attribute to facilitate verification of the installer for the software product development.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the previous software installation is performed about one day prior to the current software installation.

28. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the operations further comprise tracking expectations for the resource in a primary installation baseline and a secondary installation baseline, and wherein presenting the potential problems comprises presenting a baseline-update interface by transmitting markup language data.

29. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the operations further comprise excluding a set of resources from the generated comparison for the software product development.

30. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the expectations of resource changes, including the data, are stored in a relational database indexed by date, platform, language, and product configuration.

31. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the attributes comprise modification date stamp information, file size information, security permissions information, and checksum information.

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32. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the resource comprises a file and a system registry, and the installation data comprises deletion, addition, and modification of the resource.